

Saudis stymied on cease-fire plan for Shouf

DAMASCUS. — Efforts by Saudi Arabia to arrange a cease-fire between warring Lebanese factions are apparently deadlocked, sources close to Lebanon's government said yesterday.

Saudi mediator Prince Bandar bin Sultan returned here early yesterday from Cyprus, where he held talks with U.S. presidential envoy Robert McFarlane and a senior Lebanese official on a Syrian-approved draft agreement for a cease-fire.

He later briefed Syrian Foreign Minister Abdel-Halim Khaddam and U.S. Ambassador Robert Paganelli on the Lebanese government's response to the draft.

Bandar then left Damascus for home late yesterday to report to King Fahd.

Sources close to the Lebanese government said the negotiations had stalled over demands by Druse leader Walid Jumblatt and his Syrian backers that the Lebanese Army withdraw completely from

the Shouf and Aley battle area before any cease-fire.

McFarlane also departed for Saudi Arabia after a 45-minute meeting with Lebanese President Amin Jemayel, Prime Minister Shafik Wazzan and Foreign Minister Elie Salem.

McFarlane told reporters he would go on to other Arab capitals, presumably in hopes of mustering pan-Arab support for an end to the fighting.

Jumblatt flew to Libya to confer with Col. Muammar Gaddafi, but was expected to resume talks with Bandar later last night or today, giving rise to speculation that the Saudi peace plan is not entirely a dead letter.

Jumblatt was interviewed on ABC Television's *This Week* programme, where he strongly denied Israeli and western claims that 1,000 Palestine Liberation Organization men were fighting alongside his Druse.

"There are no Palestinians

helping me. I don't need their help. It's a purely Lebanese internal problem," he said.

In Kuwait, a Palestinian leader yesterday denied any Palestinian involvement in the fighting, but pledged help to the Lebanese opposition should Israel and the U.S. get involved on the side of the Christian militias.

Salah Khalaf, the number-two man in Fatah, told the newspaper *Al-Anbaa*: "The Palestinian resistance is opposed to any intervention in the current fighting, but if the war expands to involve the Israelis and the Americans, the Palestinian resistance movement will not stay passive."

Code-named Abu Iyad, Khalaf said in the interview that PLO differences with Syria "should then be sidestepped in the interest of forming a single front with the Lebanese nationalist movement in face of the American offensive."

In Riyadh, King Fahd vowed to struggle for the "liberation" of

Jerusalem while appealing to warring factions in Lebanon and to Iraq and Iran to cease fighting.

Addressing a statement to an estimated two million pilgrims at Mecca, the monarch said "we here in Saudi Arabia will continue to exert all efforts to support and consolidate our brothers all over the world...so that the nation of Islam regains its glory and the usurped rights, foremost among them Jerusalem."

The UN Security Council met yesterday afternoon to discuss the situation in Lebanon. Lebanon's permanent representative to the UN urged in a letter to the president of the Security Council that the council "declare a cease-fire" in his country and "take whatever measures are deemed possible and necessary for its implementation in accordance with the charter."

The only speaker in the debate was Ghassan Tuani, special envoy of Lebanon. (Reuter, AP)

Likud and partners sign new coalition accord

Aguda says no more buses on sabbaths

By DAVID LANDAU and JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Reporters

The Likud and its smaller partners signed a formal agreement last night, undertaking to reconstitute the present coalition under the leadership of Yitzhak Shamir.

The accord now enables outgoing Prime Minister Menachem Begin to submit his official resignation to president Chaim Herzog, in near-certain confidence that he will call on Shamir to form a new government. (Begin was at home yesterday getting over a bout of flu. See below)

The coalition negotiators all asserted after last night's signing that no new concessions had been demanded by anyone or offered to anyone. The new government, they said, would adopt the policy platform ("Basic guidelines") and coalition agreement of the Begin government in their entirety.

Shamir declared that he would approach the Labour opposition with a proposal for a national unity government. He would suggest negotiations both on policy and on the personal composition of such a government.

In practice, though, this scenario is unlikely to come about. "It is to be wished for," said veteran National Religious Party leader Yosef Burg last night, "but it isn't visible."

Labour has said it would consider a national unity government only



Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir gets into his car last night after successfully completing the coalition negotiations. (Rabamini Israeli)

under its own leadership.

Each of the two major blocs will now seek to cast the blame on the other for thwarting the creation of a unity government. Shamir said last night that (assuming Labour stays out) he would seek to retain the present composition of the cabinet — at least initially. He intends to hold the foreign ministry himself, thus his elevation to the premiership will not necessitate the shifting of other portfolios.

Begin's resignation reduces Herut's representation to seven cabinet ministers, which is the "correct" number, since the coopting of Moshe Arens as defence minister last year meant that Herut had "one minister too many."

The Liberal Party is expected to seek a deputy premiership for one

of its people — presumably Yitzhak Moda'i — in place of the late Liberal leader Simha Ehrlich, who held the post under Begin. A Herut minister indicated to *The Jerusalem Post* last night that Shamir would agree to this readily enough. In practice, though, Herut's David Levy, who did well against Shamir in the succession contest at Herut's central committee, will be considered the "senior" deputy to the new premier.

Regarding the substance of the coalition negotiations, all the participants insisted that no new inter-party understandings had been concluded.

Agudat Yisrael, both Likud and Aguda leaders averred that the Orthodox party had sought merely the implementation of existing agreements incorporated in the 1981 coalition accord.

Eged and Dan will soon be forced to stop their Sabbath bus services — except in localities such as Haifa where they had operated since pre-state days. Agudat Yisrael MK Shlomo Lorincz told *The Jerusalem Post* last night.

This was one of the undertakings the Likud had confirmed to secure the support of the ultra-Orthodox party for the formation of a new coalition government.

Reached at his home after the agreement was concluded, Aguda MK Shlomo Lorincz said Shamir, Levy, and Finance Minister Yoram Aridor will be responsible for implementing all the clauses in the previous coalition agreement which. (Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

Marines shelled as battle flares in south Beirut

BEIRUT (AP). — Mortar shells slammed around U.S. marine positions last night and marines and Lebanese soldiers clashed separately with Shi'a Muslim militiamen in the nine-day-old Lebanese factional fighting.

Marine spokesman Maj. Robert Jordan said three marines were wounded when a 120 millimetre mortar landed near the maintenance area in their compound at Beirut International Airport.

Another dozen shells landed nearby in the airport area, including the Middle East Airlines and Lebanese Army hangars.

Jordan said two of the wounded were evacuated to the helicopter carrier two jima anchored offshore. One suffered a shrapnel wound in the left hand and the other dislocated his shoulder, Jordan added. The third marine was treated on the compound for a minor shrapnel wound in the leg, he said.

The attack, which began after sunset and lasted about an hour, came more than 12 hours after marines exchanged small arms and machine-gun fire with gunmen firing from areas largely under the control of the Shi'a militia, Amal.

There were no injuries in that exchange, marine spokesmen said.

Marines of all three rifle companies deployed on the eastern side of the airport returned fire with automatic weapons, but no heavy artillery.

"Some guy would just pop up and let off a few rounds," Jordan said. "But the heaviest concentration was out of Hay al-Sellum."

Hay al-Sellum, a crowded neighbourhood south of Beirut, is an Amal stronghold. Gunmen from Amal clashed last month with the Lebanese Army in the streets of mostly Muslim West Beirut in a five-day conflict which preceded the current fighting between Druse and Christians.

Amal supports the Druse but has

remained on the sidelines during the current fighting in the nearby mountains. Fighting was still going on in the Shouf last night, but newsmen could get no details on the battles.

Meanwhile, Jordan confirmed that a U.S. naval task force with an additional 2,000 marines had arrived off the Lebanese coast. The task force was dispatched to the area by President Ronald Reagan after two marines were killed last month in shelling from Amal or Druse positions.

As the marines were trading gunfire with snipers, the Lebanese (Continued on back page)

Top Begin aide confers with local Druse on Shouf fighting

By MENAHEM HOROWITZ
Jerusalem Post Reporter

JULIS. — Prime Minister's Office Director-General Mattityahu Shmuelevitz yesterday said that if terrorist activities in Lebanon become more widespread, the Israel Defence Forces would have to intervene. Shmuelevitz was speaking to Israeli Druse leaders, headed by Sheikh Amin Tarif, in this Western Galilee town.

Shmuelevitz said Israel has information that terrorists are fighting on the same side as the Druse in the Shouf Mountains, although it is not clear whether the terrorists have actually entered Druse villages.

The meeting was held against the background of reports that terrorist and Druse forces were cooperating in the Shouf war and the growing concern among Israeli Druse at the presence of a Phalangist spokesman in Jerusalem.

Shmuelevitz promised to speak to Prime Minister Menachem Begin

and other ministers about the possibility of extending humanitarian aid to Druse in Lebanon.

Saki Kamal, a spokesman for the Druse who attended the meeting, said afterwards that Israeli Druse were shocked at reports of cooperation between terrorists and Druse in the Shouf. "It is deplorable that the terrorists are exploiting the just cause of the Druse for their own ends," he said.

Former Druse MK Zaidan Atshe stated that leaders of the Lebanese Druse associated with leftist leader Walid Jumblatt are prepared to come to Jerusalem to prove that they are not being helped by the terrorists.

Kamal Mansur, the president's adviser on minorities, said that reports in the media about cooperation between terrorists and Druse in the Shouf are causing distrust among Druse and Jews in Israel.

U.S. says it has evidence Syria is involved in fighting

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — The Reagan administration yesterday said it has "increasing evidence" that Syrian-supported Palestinian forces were involved in the latest wave of fighting against the government of Lebanese President Amin Jemayel.

This was underlined by State Department spokesman Alan Romberg at the daily news briefing, as well as by Secretary of State George Shultz during a meeting with American Jewish leaders.

Other well-informed U.S. officials yesterday said troops associated with the Palestine Liberation Army, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Abu Musa, the Syrian-supported anti-Arafat rebel, were assisting Lebanese Druse against Jemayel.

In addition, the officials said, the U.S. administration has evidence that regular Syrian soldiers had disguised themselves and were also in-

involved in the fighting — as were Iranian troops dispatched by the Ayatollah Khomeini.

Romberg went on to note that Palestinian involvement represented "a serious breach" in last year's U.S.-negotiated agreement, which enabled the PLO to withdraw from West Beirut.

The White House and State Department publicly refused to go so far as directly to implicate Syrian forces.

Shultz invited the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations to the State Department largely to meet incoming Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Richard Murphy.

In the process, the situation in Lebanon was reviewed. Conference chairman Julius Berman, meeting with reporters, said he had been favourably impressed by Murphy, the former ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Sharon's swipes at Arens seen as comeback bid

By DAVID LANDAU
Post Diplomatic Correspondent

Former defence minister Ariel Sharon last night lashed out publicly at his successor, Moshe Arens, blaming him for the return of PLO forces to areas of Lebanon from which Israel had ousted them.

In a speech to Likud supporters in Ofekim, Sharon angrily rejected charges that he had "got Israel stuck in the bog of Lebanon."

"What bog?" he demanded. "When I left office seven months ago the PLO had been ousted from Beirut, their infrastructure had been smashed, Galilee had been saved, the Syrians and the PLO had been driven from the Shouf. Now, when I am no longer at the centre of decision-making, the Syrians and PLO and the Druse who collaborate with them are returning to places from which they were ousted."

"Those who brought this about are those who failed to disclose to the cabinet or to the ministerial defence committee what they were

doing in Lebanon..."

This was a clear reference to Arens. On Sunday the two men crossed swords at the weekly cabinet meeting, with Arens blaming Sharon for the "original sin" of enabling the Christian Phalangist forces to enter the Shouf Mountains.

Last night, Sharon took the smouldering dispute out into the open.

Sharon's onslaught, after seven months of relative silence, is seen by many observers as the start of a determined campaign by Sharon to discredit Arens, and, more important, to rehabilitate himself and propel himself back into a leadership position in Herut.

Some observers link Sharon's broadside with his recent role in supporting Yitzhak Shamir in the Herut succession tussle against David Levy. Sharon's arch-foe in the party, while sources close to Shamir insist that the premier-designate did not make Sharon any specific promise of a post or port-

folio, Sharon at any rate feels that Shamir "owes him."

The former defence minister is not unmindful of his still-intense unpopularity within the cabinet. But he apparently senses now a profound unrest and consternation among the ministers as they look upon the debacle in Lebanon that was triggered by the IDF's redeployment.

He believes that this unrest and consternation — which will deepen if the PLO re-ensconces itself in Beirut — are fertile ground for his criticism of the way the redeployment was carried out.

In particular — though this is not spelled out in his public remarks — Sharon criticizes the tilt that has

taken place in Israeli policy under Arens: away from exclusive support for the Christians in Lebanon and towards a closer relationship with the Druse. He noted pointedly in his speech last night, "that the Druse were collaborating with the Syrians and with the PLO."

Sharon argues that the redeployment should have been carried out slowly and in stages — enabling the Lebanese Army (or the Phalangists) to take over each zone vacated by the IDF.

He contends, too, that Israel should have arranged for the Multinational Force, or elements of it, to step into sensitive areas. While the Americans were consistently

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

3 Israelis wounded in South Lebanon

METULLA. — Three Israeli soldiers were lightly wounded on Sunday night about six kilometres northwest of Nabatiya when their two-jeep patrol came under light arms fire from attackers lying by the roadside. A grenade was also thrown. The soldiers were lightly

wounded in the arms and legs.

The attackers made their getaway in a waiting vehicle. The Israel Defence Forces patrol returned the fire and combed the area, but failed to apprehend any of the attackers. Loaded Kalashnikov magazines and an exploded grenade were found nearby.

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12.9.1983	MIN	MAX	C	F	C	F
AMSTERDAM	10	18	12	54	60	140
BRUSSELS	9	17	10	50	58	136
BUENOS AIRES	7	40	20	68	76	167
CHICAGO	13	20	24	55	75	165
COPIENHAGEN	10	18	14	50	57	135
FRANKFURT	11	22	16	61	69	156
GENEVA	9	18	11	52	54	129
HELSINKI	12	23	14	57	57	135
HONG KONG	24	28	26	77	80	176
JOHANNESBURG	8	23	15	50	59	136
LISBON	14	24	19	57	66	151
LONDON	10	19	15	50	59	136
MADRID	10	20	15	50	59	136
MONTREAL	14	22	18	57	64	145
NEW YORK	20	28	24	68	74	163
OSLO	9	17	13	55	55	131
PARIS	11	23	17	63	63	141
RIO DE JANEIRO	14	27	20	57	69	156
SAO PAULO	12	23	17	54	63	145
STOCKHOLM	13	25	19	55	67	151
TORONTO	22	28	25	72	76	167
TORONTO	13	25	19	55	67	151
VIENNA	14	27	20	57	69	156
ZURICH	9	18	14	57	60	140

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THE WEATHER

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
	Humidity	Min-Max	Max
Jerusalem	35	14-27	27
Golan	34	15-29	29
Nahariya	65	18-30	30
Salaf	41	16-27	27
Haifa Port	65	24-30	30
Tiberias	27	20-35	35
Nazareth	46	20-31	31
Afula	41	19-29	29
Shomron	41	19-29	29
Tel Aviv	65	21-29	29
B-G Airport	57	20-31	31
Jericho	36	20-35	35
Gaza	65	21-29	29
Be'er Sheva	27	16-32	32
Eilat	14	23-38	38

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

President Chaim Herzog yesterday received at Beit Hanassi the members of the Jerusalem Municipal Council, who brought him New Year greetings. The President also received Yosef Ornat, director-general of World ORT, who reported to him on an ORT conference held recently in London. (Setting the pace — Page 5)

Police officer guilty of taking bribes

Rav-Pakad (superintendent) Yehoshua Shabi, former commander of the Ramallah police station and then deputy commander of the Judea subdistrict, was recently convicted of taking bribes. Sentence is to be handed down in two weeks' time.

Shabi, 55, was arrested last November by detectives, who had been shadowing him for some time. They arrested him after he walked out of a Ramallah restaurant, where he had accepted a bribe.

Jerusalem District Court Judge Ya'acov Bazak found Shabi guilty of seven of the 14 counts in the charge sheet.

Among other things, Shabi was convicted of receiving a \$1,000 bribe from Ramallah money changer Hana Abu-Gazala, in return for a promise, made after a robbery in Abu-Gazala's store, to increase police protection there. (After getting the money, Shabi in fact ordered more frequent police visits to the store.)

Shabi was also found guilty of accepting bribes of fruit and vegetables from two storekeepers in the Al-Bireh market. The value of the produce he got free of charge or for next to nothing is estimated at thousands of shekels. (Itim)

U.S. tourist dies in Tel Aviv collision

TEL AVIV (Itim). — A tourist from the U.S. was killed yesterday in a collision between a car and a bus at the junction of Rehov Dizengoff and Rehov Frishman at 5 a.m.

Rami Inbar, 34, a medical student spending the holiday season in Israel, who was a passenger in the car, was killed. The driver of the car, Guy Livnat, 22, and the other passenger, Aviv Moses, 28, both from Tel Aviv, were seriously injured.

The driver of the bus was detained for questioning. Inbar is survived by his wife.

Six people arrested for hooliganism in Nazareth

NAZARETH (Itim). — Six local residents were arrested Sunday night as suspects in acts of hooliganism on Rehov Paulos, this city's main street.

The six, among them two 17-year-old youths, allegedly threw bottles and stones at passersby and cars.

Welcome to Israel
JOSEPH BRISCOE and wife DEBBIE
of Dublin, Ireland. (Mr. Briscoe is the son of the late Robert Briscoe, first Jewish Lord Mayor of Dublin).

Prof. BENNETT CHERNOFSKY and wife NANCY
of Turo College, N.Y.C.
From the Capt. Yehiel and Ruth Glosky, Langer Hospitality Foundation.

HOME AND WORLD NEWS

Knesset session tomorrow on local elections

Jerusalem Post Knesset Reporter

The Knesset is to meet in special session tomorrow morning at 10, at the request of the government, to pass a number of bills dealing with various aspects of the municipal elections scheduled for October 25. The bills, which are all of a technical nature, passed their first readings in the last week of the Knesset summer session in July.

One new bill — scheduled to have all three of its readings tomorrow — is an amendment to the Jewish Religious Services Law, which would extend the term of office of the existing religious councils until six months after the elections.

Not on tomorrow's agenda is the government's Bill to Aid Large Families, which passed its first reading on the last night of the summer session and had been due to have its second and third readings at a special session on August 22.

But after the Knesset secretariat announced the special session, the government changed its mind and asked that it be cancelled.

Deputy Knesset Speaker Meir Cohen-Avidov told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that the large families bill would be included on the agenda if Tami joined the coalition. Cohen-Avidov spoke before the signing of the coalition agreement.

But Deputy Labour and Social Affairs Minister Benzion Rubin told *The Post* last night that the bill had been so watered down in committee that Tami, the initiators of the bill, had asked that it not be presented to the House in its present form.

Jewish families open their homes to Lebanese refugees

Jerusalem Post Staff

ROSH HANIKRA. — Some 500 Lebanese citizens and 120 foreign nationals crossed into Israel at this frontier post yesterday. To accommodate them, the post was opened at 7 a.m., an hour earlier than usual.

Nearly half of the arrivals purchased air tickets — to West Africa, Europe and the U.S. — at the El Al office, which was opened especially for their convenience.

Those who are staying in Israel were issued seven-day visas. They proceeded to hotels, or to relatives in Galilee.

The police officer in charge of the post, Mefakeh (inspector) Alex Binyamini, received dozens of phone calls during the day from Jewish families who offered to put up refugees in their homes for one to four weeks. Twenty refugee families were sent yesterday to such families, mainly in Nahariya and Huifa.

A resident of Hadera phoned to say that the people in his street were willing to put up 10 refugee families, and the Israel-France Friendship League is also arranging such "adoptions." Some taxi drivers are making the most of the opportunity and are demanding highly inflated fares, for instance, \$100 to Tel Aviv and \$50 to Majd al-Kuram village in Galilee.

It was officially announced yesterday that Interior Minister Yosef Burg would appoint an inter-ministerial team to study the need for laying down further rules governing the passage of persons from Lebanon into Israel via Rosh Hanikra.

The increasing number of applications by Lebanese citizens to visit Israel made it necessary for the team appointed to consider the advisability of additional rules, Burg said.

Edward Grossman adds: Between 60,000 and 70,000

refugees have arrived in Sidon from the Shouf Mountains in recent days, sources in the Israel Defence Forces department of civilian aid and in the Sidon Municipality told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday. They stressed, however, that the figures were rough estimates.

According to the Red Cross, 250 Lebanese from Beirut and the Shouf have been treated in hospital here. This number includes wounded militiamen.

Most of the refugees are Christians, with families or second homes in southern Lebanon. For the time being, those who have not found shelter with relatives are being put up in schools and churches.

A visitor to Sidon yesterday did not get the impression of a city swamped with refugees. The bridge over the Awali just north of Sidon carried a heavy stream of traffic southward, but only about one car

in 10 was piled with mattresses and household goods.

IDF troops in uniform and in civilian clothes as well as men of Major Sa'ad Haddad's militia conducted spot checks on the traffic.

There was also some traffic going north, including ambulances heading for the fighting several kilometres away.

Among the villages to the north which have been virtually evacuated was the Christian village of Jiye off the coastal road near Damour. Several families from the village are living in the school overlooking the sea near the Awali bridge.

One resident of Jiye said that 15,000 of his fellow villagers fled when they heard reports of massacres of Christians by Druse in the interior of the Shouf. He was said that only a few Phalangite fighters were left to defend the villagers' homes and possessions.

West Bank lawyers striking

By DAVID RICHARDSON

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Some 170 Arab lawyers on the West Bank yesterday began a two-day strike in protest against changes in the legal system in the area recently introduced by the civil administration. The lawyers failed to appear before local civil courts as part of their protest.

In particular the lawyers, who are supported by local judges, are protesting against a military order introduced two months ago which removes the adjudication of issues relating to unregistered land, from local Arab courts to a military objection committee. The committee consists of three military-appointed

officials, two of whom are lawyers. The chairman of the objection committee is the president of the West Bank military court.

The civil administration says that the order, No. 1060, was introduced to counter a rash of forgeries which has plagued land transactions between Palestinians and Israelis. Several large land deals fell through over the past year because documents had been forged, and the Justice Ministry eventually issued a statement warning the public against unsupervised private transactions.

The Arab lawyers are also complaining about increases in court fees and changes in regulations.

COALITION ACCORD

(Continued from Page One)

have not yet been attended to. The Aguda had no new demands, Lorincz maintained, but only insisted on implementing items in the August, 1981, coalition agreement.

Putting a stop to Sabbath bus services would be one of the easily achieved goals, he added. He complained that there were buses on the Sabbath everywhere except in Jerusalem.

Article 7 of the 1981 coalition agreement says: "Public transport shall cease operating before the start of the Sabbath and Jewish holidays, and shall not resume operating until the Sabbath or the holiday has ended, in accordance with the status quo on this matter."

Lorincz said the law that restricts such services has not been enforced. Agudat Yisrael's aim was to shut these services "just like El Al," he said. The ban would include the use of Egged and Dan buses for tours on the Sabbath or operating services under fictitious names such as the Sea Lovers Society in the Dan area. There should be "no monkeying around," he insisted.

The Agudat Yisrael leader was confident the Knesset would also pass bills restricting archeological digs where bones are found, as well as the touchy "Who is a Jew" question.

Lorincz said he was confident that opposition to these bills within the Likud would be surmounted because the coalition's existence was on the line.

In talks with the Likud, Agudat Yisrael representatives left no doubt that the sentiments they had for Prime Minister Menachem Begin — which led Likud leaders to assume that they would not bolt the government even if it fails to meet all its religious obligations — would not hold for Shamir.

Tami: This party had been seeking the abrogation of the government's new austerity measures. But a Herut minister asserted last night that no such commitment had been given. What had been agreed, he said, was that the new government under Shamir would "go back and discuss once more" the economic package opposed by Tami but fought for so insistently by Finance Minister Yoram Aridor.

The Herut minister noted that the Tami men must know that "go back and discuss once more" was not the same as saying "abrogate" or "withdraw."

Tami had balked at the measures,

one of which — for example doubled purchase tax on home refrigerators, cooking stoves, heaters and washing machines. But Tami's Deputy Labour Minister Benzion Rubin maintained last night that this decision will be reversed. He acknowledged that the formal agreement said the matter will be "reconsidered" but insisted "both sides understand what that means."

Some members of Tami's secretariat which met in Jerusalem yesterday did not see eye-to-eye with Rubin. They claimed that when the Likud feels strong enough in the saddle it will renew measures harming Tami's constituents, but Rubin said a "near overwhelming majority" voted for joining the coalition.

National Religious Party: Interior Minister Yosef Burg told *The Post* last night he was proud his party had been consistent in eschewing the traditional process of horse-trading. His position throughout had been that Begin's resignation must not be an occasion for the coalition partners to seek political profits. The state needed the stability of a smooth and speedy transfer of power to a new premier, Burg said. The NRP had stuck to that belief and had put forward no demands.

The veteran minister sounded a somewhat sceptical note regarding the other coalition parties. "If (the agreements) are merely over implementation of extant agreements — that's one thing. But if there are new agreements — well, they didn't tell us about them..."

The "Group of Six": Former Energy Minister Yitzhak Berman last night reiterated the threat of four Likud and two independent MKs not to support a Shamir-led government unless he invites the Alignment to join it and gives ample time for "serious" negotiations should the main opposition bloc show interest.

Speaking also for Knesset Speaker Menachem Savidor, Dan Tichon and Dror Zeigerman (all Likud-Liberals), and Minister without Portfolio Mordechai Ben-Porat and former Finance Minister Yigael Hurvitz (both independent) Berman told *The Post* that they will closely follow Shamir's moves once the president asks him to form a coalition. The six will abstain in a vote of confidence unless Shamir makes the overture, Berman stressed.

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U.S. expelled two Soviets

WASHINGTON (AP). — The U.S. State Department revealed yesterday that two Soviet diplomats were expelled from the U.S. last month for spying and suggested that the expulsion of an American diplomat in Leningrad was done in retaliation.

The two Soviets were identified as Yuri Petrovich Leonov, an assistant air attaché, and Anatoly Yevgenyevich Skripko, an attaché.

Both were declared *persona non grata* "for engaging in espionage," said Alan Romberg, the State Department's deputy spokesman.

Leonov was declared *persona non grata* on August 19 and Skripko was declared *persona non grata* on August 17. They were both attached to the Soviet Embassy in Washington. (KGB holds U.S. diplomat: Page 4.)

SHARON

(Continued from Page One)

reluctant to contemplate such an assignment, there were indications from the French earlier in the summer that they would consider it.

In a radio interview earlier in the day Sharon said that Israel should demand that the U.S. contingent of the multinational force in Beirut prevent Palestinian terrorists from re-entering the Lebanese capital.

Sharon told Israel Radio: "We must demand that the Americans make efforts to prevent the terrorists from entering Beirut via the multinational forces."

He also said Israeli forces which withdrew to the Awali River should continue coastal patrols north to the Damour River, about 20 kilometres south of Beirut, "because this area was in the past, especially its

western portion, a primary stronghold of the terrorists."

Between the interview and the speech Sharon conducted an angry telephone conversation with Arens, who called to invite him for dinner. Sharon cited the "smear campaign" against him, blamed Arens' aides for it, and said he "could not accept such methods" and would therefore reject the dinner date.

He reportedly accused Arens of making "serious errors in the Shouf" — and trying to pass on the blame for them onto me.

Arens' spokesman, Nahman Shia, said last night he had "no comment" on the reported phone call. "The minister is not in the habit of divulging his private conversations," Shia said.

Blast kills 63 SA miners

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters). — Sixty-three miners yesterday were killed in a methane gas explosion at a coal mine in Natal province, the mine's owners said.

Seventeen of the 80 workers in the crew survived the explosion, that apparently occurred when methane gas seeped from the coal seam or the bedrock and ignited, Jurie Blom, coal-buying manager for the colliery, told the Associated Press.

A spokesman for the South African Iron and Steel Corporation said the underground blast ripped through the Hlobane Colliery at Vryheid, 250 kilometres northwest of Durban, shortly before 8 a.m., killing 60 blacks and three whites. Three other workers were in serious condition, the spokesman added.

He said the blast occurred about an hour after the crew began the first shift after the weekend. He said methane gas may have leaked spontaneously from the coal seam during the weekend and been ignited by the mining equipment.



Respective delegation heads Uzi Landau (far left) and Larry Williamson (far right) at yesterday's resumption of the Israel-U.S. aviation talks in Jerusalem.

Israel-U.S. aviation talks resume

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Participants in the Israel-U.S. aviation talks which resumed in Jerusalem yesterday said there was some hope of finding a way out of the impasse which led to the failure of earlier meetings.

Yesterday's session was devoted to an exposition of the Israeli and American positions and an Israeli source said later that only today will the parties try to see whether the gaps between them can be bridged.

Israel wants to amend the existing agreement to restrict the number of carriers playing the lucrative trans-Atlantic route. The Israeli position is designed to restrict competition

to El Al, but the Americans opposed changes because it would harm their policy of deregulation. The present agreement had led to an increase in the number of American carriers flying here. At first only TWA plied the route. Metro International joined later and the U.S. Administration had designated Capitol as a third carrier.

Israel realized it was too late to stop Capitol from flying here — but sought to limit the number of passengers it would carry to five per cent of the total traffic. The Americans' last reported stand was that Capitol be allowed to fly 13 to 15 per cent of the traffic.

UK critics rap 'slipshod' IPO

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON. — The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra yesterday was savaged by Britain's leading music critics for its performance at the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday night in the Promenade concerts. However, they praised conductor, Zubin Mehta.

But the critics took a different view. *The Times* said that the orchestra "arrives here much below its best form," and spoke of "weaknesses in the brass section."

The Daily Telegraph said that they "sounded unexpectedly unsure of themselves," and their playing was "surprisingly cautious and ill-focused."

The *Guardian* described the IPO as "slipshod." In the Brahms they displayed "some deficiencies of orchestral tuning and intonation." But that critic did praise the strings, "which excelled themselves."

All the papers praised Mehta and Barenboim.

The IPO played three pieces by Alban Berg, followed by Schumann's second symphony and with Daniel Barenboim as soloist Brahms' first piano concerto.

The sell-out audience applauded enthusiastically after each piece, particularly the Barenboim solo.

Pro-Israel sentiments at UK trade union convention

By HYAM CORNEY

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON. — More than 20 leading British trade union officials signed and circulated a pro-Israel statement at last week's annual conference of the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool.

He reportedly accused Arens of making "serious errors in the Shouf" — and trying to pass on the blame for them onto me.

It welcomed the agreement between Israel and Lebanon and emphasized Israel's "right to live in peace behind secure and recognized borders." It regretted that "certain hardline rejectionist Arab states" are continuing to block any inclination by other Arab countries to negotiate with Israel.

Sela told *The Jerusalem Post* that the atmosphere at the conference was far better than last year, when an anti-Israel resolution was passed. This year, there were no motions hostile to Israel.

Hopes that a pro-Israel resolution would be passed by delegates were dashed, however, when the vote was taken by a show of hands rather than by a card vote. Binyamin Sela, the UK representative of the Histadrut who attended the conference, said that a card vote would have resulted in the motion being passed, as several big unions had

told him that they would vote for it. The motion had the support of Moss Evans, chairman of the international committee of the TUC, and many leading trade unions. It called on the movement to enhance contacts with the Histadrut.

Sela told *The Jerusalem Post* that the atmosphere at the conference was far better than last year, when an anti-Israel resolution was passed. This year, there were no motions hostile to Israel.

Last night a Trade Union Friends of Israel Organization was formed. It is to help counter activities of the vociferous Trade Union Friends of Palestine, which has made considerable inroads in the trade-union movement.

TOW-ZONE. — The Kiryat Ono regional council and local police have launched a campaign to tow away all abandoned vehicles in the area to the Hirya junkyard.

In deep sorrow, we announce the death of our director

Giulio Ottolenghi ז"ל

and extend sympathy and condolences to the family

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Jerusalem
Management and Staff

In profound grief we announce the sudden passing of our beloved

ELIAHU NAKAR ז"ל
on 2 Tishrei 5744 (September 9, 1983).
Shiva at residence of deceased, 21 Rehov Ramat Hagolan, Jerusalem.

The Bereaved Family

In deep grief, we announce the death of

IRMA POLAK ז"ל
The funeral will leave the Kibbutz at 2 p.m. today, Tuesday, September 13, 1983.

The Family and House of Neot Mordechai

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WOMEN'S AMERICAN ORT
ORT ISRAEL

mourn the death of

JOSEPH DANON ז"ל

a life-long friend and generous supporter, champion of education for Israel's young generation.

Rishon school battle heats up

By LEA LEVAVI

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV. — Officials of the Rishon LeZion Municipality yesterday sealed off elementary school classrooms in an effort to force parents to send their seventh grade children to the junior high schools. The city officials, accompanied by police, noted the identity of parents who had sent seventh-graders to the elementary schools.

A meeting held yesterday between Histadrut Teachers Union secretary-general Amnon Abramson and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer failed to yield any solution. Hammer, according to the union, promised to consider some proposals the union made, but union officials refused to reveal the nature of their suggestions.

The union, angry over the action of the Rishon city fathers, met yesterday to consider a protest strike, but decided against it at the request of Hammer, who promised that nobody from the Rishon Municipality (or police) would come to the schools today and that there would be no use of force to implement the reform.

Abramson and Hammer, together with Rishon's mayor Hananya Gibstein, are to meet again today to seek a solution to the crisis.

The tension had been brought to a high pitch yesterday after Gibstein said the parents were against the educational reform (junior high schools), because more affluent families from the centre of the city do not want their children going to school with poorer children from peripheral neighbourhoods.

Sharir says high hotel rates harm tourism

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Israel's hotels, already smarting from surprise visits by Tourism Ministry quality control squads, are now facing criticism from Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir that they charge too much for rooms.

At a meeting yesterday of the ministry executive, Sharir expressed concern that high hotel prices could reduce the number of visitors to Israel. The prices are already responsible for the ever increasing number of Israelis vacationing abroad, he said.

According to ministry figures, some 304,000 Israelis left the country by air during June, July and August, 31 per cent more than during the same period last year and 33 per cent more than in 1981.

A ministry team, headed by Sharir's economic adviser, Rafi Be'eri, is to compare hotel prices with those of countries competing with Israel for tourists. Among the suggested solutions were the levelling of official hotel rates and the publication of "recommended" rates.

In reaction to Sharir's statements, Avi Cassouto, president of the Jerusalem Hotel Association, accused the minister of "not doing his homework" in this area and making statements without preliminary study. Cassouto urged the minister to state what would be an ideal hotel rate that could both attract tourists and enable the hotels to give an adequate level of service.

In fact, he said, the price of the hotel room is

only 30 per cent of the total travel package to Israel, which includes air fare and tour arrangements. Lowering hotel rates 10 per cent, he said, would only cut the overall cost of the package by 3 per cent.

Cassouto added that for the coming season, several of the hotels are not raising prices and others are cutting their rates. A room for two with breakfast was listed as \$60 at the Holyland Hotel this year, whereas next year it will be \$52, he said.

The Ramada Shalom, the city's largest hotel with 700 rooms, is going down from \$65 to \$52, and the Tadmor is lowering its rate to \$36 from \$49. When viewed in the context of the U.S. inflation rate, this amounts to a very sizeable reduction, Cassouto said.

Lahat may quit over cronies' slating

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Mayor Shlomo Lahat, the Likud candidate for reelection, may withdraw from the contest if his preferred choices are not given higher places on the Herut list for the municipal council.

At a meeting of Herut's municipal committee in Jerusalem yesterday, Lahat expressed deep discontent with the unrealistic places the men of his choice obtained.

Asked by Deputy Prime Minister David Levy, a committee member, what he would do if his demands were not met, Lahat replied, "It is conceivable that I will go home."

Safe places on the list were given to Deputy Mayor Yigal Griffl, municipal executive member Arye Kremer, David Zvi, Haim Tasa, Eitan Sulami, and Ben-Zion Yehudai.

Lahat's choices, Netivei Ayalon board chairman Eldad Bukspan, Tel

Aviv Fund chairman Hanan Ben-Yehuda, and Airports Authority director-general Arye Grozbaard were placed 15, 17, and 19 on the list and will probably not be elected.

Lahat, who at first demanded the right to choose all the members on his list, was extremely disappointed with the results of the list elections. Sources close to him warned yesterday that if the committee insists on leaving the list as it is, Lahat may drop out of the race.

The committee is to make its decision today or tomorrow. The list must be made final by 9 p.m. Thursday.

The Liberal Party, which is running with Herut on the Likud list, is to complete the choice of its five members — chosen out of 30 — by tomorrow. Heading the list are Lahat and Deputy Mayor Yitzhak Caspi.

The Alignment's municipal elections campaign is to be officially launched this evening with a

demonstration in support of Alignment mayor candidate Dov Ben-Meir.

Scheduled speakers at Habima hall are Alignment chairman Shimon Peres, Histadrut secretary-general Yehoram Meshel, MK Yitzhak Rabin, Labour Party secretary-general Haim Bar-Lev, Mapam secretary-general Victor Shemtov, Na'amat secretary-general Masha Lubelski, and municipal elections headquarters' chairman Mordechai Gur. MK Ora Namir will be in the chair.

The Independent Liberal Party yesterday finalized its list for the municipal elections. Heading the list is Yitzhak Artzi, currently serving as deputy mayor. Pertz Unikovsky, head of the city's welfare and hospitalization services, is No. 2. The list includes a number of other public figures, among them Ada Machness, chairperson of Al-Sum, an organization which helps the victims of drug abuse.



Likud MK Akiva Nof yesterday takes a break from coalition politics to spend time at the beach with his son. (Rivka Finder)

Trade deficit increases despite fall in oil prices

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

Israel's trade deficit increased by more than \$450 million in the first eight months of the year, compared to the same period last year.

Figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics showed that the deficit for January-August totalled \$2.45 billion, compared to \$2 billion for the first eight months of 1982. This represents a 21 per cent increase.

The deficit last month alone reached \$400 million, compared to \$300 million during August 1982. This means that the trade deficit this August was 33 per cent higher than it was last August.

The increase in the deficit resulted from a 5 per cent increase in imports in the first eight months of the year, compared to the January-August 1982 period. Imports rose from \$5.3b. in 1982 to \$5.6b. this year.

Exports fell by 4 per cent during the same period, from \$3.3b. to \$3.1b.

The increase in the deficit was largely moderated by the continuing fall in the price of imported oil, which meant a drop of \$355m. in the outlay for imported oil.

Imports of consumer goods increased by 22 per cent during the period, while those of investment goods registered a 38 per cent rise.

TA paper collection termed a success

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The city collects 132 tons of waste paper from its residents every month in the backyard paper-container system, the municipality spokesman said yesterday. But many residents still do complain of inadequate paper collection.

After removing the large paper containers of the Soldiers' Welfare Association from the streets several years ago, the city promised to put a smaller paper container in each back yard within a short time.

But apart from the experimental

3,300 containers set up mainly in residential quarters, no replacement was found for the large containers and residents had to throw away their newspapers with their garbage. Sanitation workers later separated the papers from the garbage in the Hiriya garbage dump.

According to the city spokesman, the new paper-collection system has far surpassed its forecasts. "Maybe now the city will keep its promise and put these containers near every building," said one residents' committee member, adding that she is tired of having to dump endless bags of newspaper on the street.

Alleged drug ring broken in capital

By ROBERT ROSENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Thirty-six residents of East Jerusalem were arrested early yesterday morning on suspicion of involvement in a major smuggling ring that brought drugs from Lebanon to the capital.

The long-planned police raid netted known fences, drug smugglers and peddlars, along with several kilos of hushish, some heroin, Adolan and LSD, police said. Among those arrested was at least one "big-time

dealer" a senior officer told *The Jerusalem Post*.

For the operation, the police planted an Arab police recruit 14 months ago in the East Jerusalem underworld. For every arrest made yesterday, a file had already been prepared of the specific incident witnessed by the undercover agent.

With the arrest, the undercover officer becomes an ordinary police officer, but police will not reveal his identity until after trials begin for those arrested.

According to police, there was lit-

tle resistance to the arresting officers, who worked between shortly after midnight Sunday until well into yesterday morning. In one instance, however, the girlfriend of one of the arrested men threatened to kill herself with a large kitchen knife. She was disarmed by two Border Police officers who accompanied the arresting officer, police said.

Heading the operation was Rav-Pakad Ya'acov Scharnel, who heads the police Special Operations unit.

Cyclists faulted for accidents

By AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

About 1,000 bicycle riders are injured in road accidents every year, and the cyclists themselves are chiefly to blame, according to a study by the Transport Ministry's Road Safety Authority.

Releasing these figures yesterday as he opened this year's Bicycle Safety Campaign, authority director Moshe Amirav said, "In most accidents, the cause is a lack of caution on the part of bike riders."

Cyclists must obey traffic regulations and make sure their bicycles are visible at night. Reflectors are a

must."

Amirav also disclosed that the Transport Ministry would soon free municipalities and local authorities from the duty of issuing licences for bicycles.

Instead, a comprehensive cycling course will be introduced in schools. Then, beginning next year, the administration will issue non-compulsory bicycle licences based on these courses. A holder of such a licence will not have to take the theory part of his motor vehicle driver's licence examination, since traffic theory is to be included in the cycling course.

'Unexpected' TV blackball only for Dahl

Sir John Wolfe, producer of the British television series, *Tales of the Unexpected*, has written to Broadcasting Authority director Yosef Lapid urging him to reconsider his ban on the series, announced after the publication of an anti-Semitic article by the programme's creator, Roul Dahl, in a recent issue of *Literary Review*.

Wolfe wrote Lapid that he was

right to take exception to Dahl's "ill-considered remarks" about Jews, but said that most of the series is based on stories by other authors.

It was revealed yesterday that the Israel Television decision was to ban only programmes written by Dahl, and not the series as a whole. Israel Television in fact plans to purchase the next series, except for any episodes written by Dahl.

Freij quits the board of Bethlehem U.

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij yesterday announced that he has resigned as chairman of the board of trustees of Bethlehem University, because of "dissatisfaction over administrative problems in the running of the university."

Freij's decision clearly surprised Brother Thomas Scanlan, vice-chancellor of the Catholic institute. "I know that he is unhappy about something, but I'm not sure what," Scanlan said, adding that he suspects

that it relates to criticism of the mayor by students during unrest there last March.

Scanlan said that he hopes Freij's resignation "was like (Prime Minister) Begin's — a notice of intent not yet formally implemented." Freij has not yet informed the university's chancellor, Archbishop Carew, of his decision.

Freij said last night that he had resigned from the 16-member board together with his secretary, Dr. Daud Sulameh.

Emil Grunzweig commemorative sign defaced

A sign in Jerusalem commemorating the death of Peace Now activist Emil Grunzweig has been defaced. The sign is located on the spot Grunzweig was murdered in a grenade attack opposite the Prime Minister's Office on February 10. The Hebrew words "Peace Now" have been changed to "False Peace."

According to security officers

who guard the area, the defacement had not been noticed and occurred a number of weeks ago. They said they had been no suspicious persons in the area.

Pakad (Chief Inspector) Ziv Rotem, the Jerusalem police spokesman, said that there had been no official complaint, and therefore an investigation had not been opened. (Itim)



This Russian Orthodox crucifix, seized last month by Herzliya police during an investigation, is made of brass and engraved with passages from the New Testament. It is believed to date from the 17th century. Police ask anyone who has information regarding the ownership of the crucifix to phone (052)555555.

(Police photo)

Ne'eman: Israel can be fourth in information systems

HERZLIYA (Itim). — Minister of Science and Development Yuval Ne'eman said yesterday that Israel in the near future would have a master plan for a sophisticated system of *ikshuv* (a Hebrew acronym for communications, computers, and information).

Addressing a seminar of the Israel Public Relations Association at the Accadia Hotel, Ne'eman said that this development would strengthen Israel's defence and its economy.

Ne'eman said there is no reason why Israel in this respect could not occupy fourth place in the world, after Japan, the U.S., and Europe. Israel has the potential for building such a system, "and we are open to offers" from the countries mentioned, he said.

He also said that a sophisticated system of computers and control could help in developing the advanced technologies required in the production of missiles and the Lavi.

Soldier charged in theft, shooting, kidnap

BEERSHEBA (Itim). — A conscript soldier yesterday was charged in the local district court with illegal use of a firearm, threatening behaviour, car theft and kidnapping, during an escape in August which involved hundreds of police in his pursuit and capture.

Ya'acov Abuhazzeira was charged with the series of incidents, which began when he allegedly stole a private car on August 26 and drove it to Jerusalem.

On the way back to Beersheba, he was stopped by police, but drove

off before he could be detained. He allegedly drove dangerously, causing a police vehicle which pursued him to overturn in a ditch.

Police say that Abuhazzeira abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot, shooting at his police pursuers with his Galil rifle. A 16-year-old alleged accomplice was shot and wounded by police, then captured. At Moshav Kochav, the accused is said to have hijacked a car, forcing the owner to drive towards Beersheba at rifle-point.

The accused is charged with leav-

ing this vehicle — which drove off — to shoot at his pursuers again, and then hijacking another vehicle. He abandoned the third car after its driver lost control and crashed near the Tel Shoket crossroads on the Beersheba-Hebron road.

Abuhazzeira fled on foot, and is accused of firing at his police pursuers. After repeated calls to lay down his weapon and give himself up, the police opened fire, lightly wounding him in his hand and leg. He was taken into custody and treated at Soroka Hospital here.

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DIZENGOFF TOWER

The Jerusalem Post's Daniel Gavron goes camping in Sinai and finds it—almost—like old times

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

(Werner Braun)



WE ARRANGE to meet our kibbutz friends at Taba. "You know, at the border," we tell each other on the phone. It's not quite so simple. Taba stretches several hundred metres from the Israeli police and customs post, going past the huge edifice of the Sonesta Hotel and Rafi Nelson's holiday village to the actual border fence.

We decide to wait under the pleasant, shady awning next to the Israeli police post and before too long the kibbutz minibus arrives. The friendly Israeli police advise us to move fast. A tourist bus could arrive any minute, they say, and then it will take hours to get through.

We register radios and cameras at the customs and get our passports stamped, just like a real trip abroad; but the fun starts on the Egyptian side. It is a different tempo: relaxed, unhurried, good-humoured. Nearly all the young officials are from El-Arish and most of them speak Hebrew; all of them have that special Egyptian zeal for documentation.

For the next hour and a half, we move from immigration to transport to customs to the bank, back to customs, to insurance, to transport to immigration, and so on. Innumerable forms are filled out, stamped, filed away. Most of our party get six stamps (including two Israeli ones) in their passports. The two official vehicle drivers get nine. The entire procedure is carried out with jokes and a demonstrative friendliness.

Two of the kibbutz party are volunteers from England. The girl, Dini, plays the French horn; bearded Ted plays the accordion. They launch into their one Egyptian tune, which goes down very well, and before we know what's happening they're giving a 20-minute impromptu concert.

PROCEDURES completed at last, we are given Egyptian number plates to place in our windscreen and back window. A red-bellied Egyptian soldier waves us past his sandbagged position with a smile and we are through. The road is unchanged, with the same large green road signs, except that the Hebrew has been painted out and replaced by Arabic. The mountains are as beautiful as ever, the sea even more blue than we remembered.

We have Ras Burka, 20 kilometres north of Nueiba, to ourselves, except for a party of three, camping tented further up the beach. After pitching our tents, we take our first swim out to the reef and see a ruddy-lion fish. There is also the blue-green parrot fish, the yellow and blue angel, the orange-tipped butterfly, the deep purple surgeon, with its bright yellow fins and tail and many, many more.

The beach appears cleaner than before, despite the absence of the Nature Protection Society, and there are few flies. Enormous numbers of crabs, some fully three inches across, scurry over the sand.

If you chase them, they bury themselves with incredible speed, leaving their eyes projecting on stalks.

That night a group of five camels browse in our rubbish, quite like old times.

Day 2: "But look the morn in russet mantle clad,"

Walks o'er the dew of yon high eastern hill."

Surely Shakespeare lived in Sinai; I never remember such dawns in England. Once it appears, the sun comes up fast and by 6.30 a.m. it is already quite hot, except that we don't really know it's half-past six. Colin, manager of the kibbutz factory and an organization man par excellence, has left his watch at home and persuades us to put ours away. "You can't wear a watch in Sinai," he pronounces.

BEFORE WE have settled down to breakfast, F— arrives with his two camels. During the Israeli period, he ran a snack bar at Ras Burka and he bemoans "the good old days."

"Reggie, an art teacher and mother of six — two of whom are with us — is our ambassador plenipotentiary. She accompanies F— back to his camp, returning several hours later, her blond hair wrapped in a keffiyeh, swinging a large red locus, which we will have for supper. She has enjoyed an early lunch of fish soup, fish and pita.

"That's all they eat," she says indignantly, at once titling our supplies for the local population, who have obviously heard about her, for they start arriving in numbers.

We start out by giving them

strong, black, syrupy coffee, only to discover that they much prefer instant coffee with milk.

The day passes quickly with expeditions to the reef, sleeping, reading and playing cards and shesh-besh in the shade. We are joined for supper — rice and wok-cooked vegetables with the locus — by our fellow-campers on the beach.

Hanan spent six years in Sinai during the Israeli period and this is his third trip back since. He makes jewelry and has come to collect fish fins for earrings. His two companions are tourists: one from

F— observes that 28 Beduin used to be employed by the Nature Reserves Authority between Taba and Nueiba. He also did a roaring trade with his camels, giving rides to children.

OUR CHILDREN take the hint and have rides at two Egyptian pounds a time — not cheap. Dini from England also wants a ride, but our Egyptian currency has run out. F— will not take supplies in lieu of money. He later relents and gives Dini a "free ride." Then he takes the offered supplies, making it clear

and we feel bad about taking them out of the water and bad about accepting them from the Beduin. But Reggie makes sure they get a good rate of exchange — our food supply is dwindling fast — and the fish were delicious.

Day 4: The Egyptian officials from Taba pay us a visit in their smart white Toyota minibus. M— from El-Arish plays shesh-besh with Alon. 15. "It's Egypt versus Israel," he laughs. He wins the first game; but then Alon wins the next two. They look prosperous and well-

A BUSLOAD of French Christian pilgrims arrives at our beach in the evening. They invite us over to join in a sing-song; but their rendition of religious songs in harmony is so beautiful we are almost ashamed to silence. As their beautiful music soars in the moonlit night, we seem to have arrived at the millennium: we Jews have found friendship with Moslem (but really pre-Islamic) Beduin, with Moslem El-Arishis, and now with these Christians.

Day 5: Bearded Ted has been building an enormous sand-castle, smoothing the walls and shaping the towers with incredible patience. We all admire it on our way to explore the northern reef, which here is split up into islands with magical grooves and pink and yellow coral.

Here are emperor and box fish, which we have not seen further south. Colin swears he has seen a manta ray. He is a trifle short-sighted and we think he may have actually seen a reef sting ray; but Colin sticks by his story.

That night is a real Ras Burka shocker, with the wind howling down from the north, covering everything in sand. We fight for more than an hour to secure the tents with large, granite rocks. The wind doesn't let up until the early hours of the morning and, for the first time, we begin to think of home.

Day 6: The morning dawns russet and peaceful and we regret the speed with which the week has passed. The approach of the weekend brings more visitors to our beach: three cars from Tel Aviv and a se-

cond kibbutz minibus.

Reggie, who has given all our coffee (and much else besides — she is a one-woman welfare organization) to the local Beduin, manages to negotiate a new coffee supply from the kibbutzniks.

F— and K—, who arrive just in time for a cup, seem fascinated by the shesh-besh. "What do Beduin play?" asks Reggie. They quickly mark out a board in the sand and teach us a two-handed solitaire-cum-drafts. It is played with stones and camel dung, but I suppose black and white counters would do in the absence of the original materials.

EVENING ARRIVES all too quickly and Haimke comes over from the kibbutz minibus — having apparently decided (correctly) that we are more-or-less welfare cases — offering chicken. Three of our proto-vegetarians fall on it like starving cannibals; the Beduin decline. "It's kosher," Haimke tells them reassuringly and they laugh, knowing what he means.

That night the three Israeli groups come together to sing Hebrew folk songs alternating with spirituals and American '60s protest songs, which Dini and Ted play exceptionally well.

Day 7: A farewell swim to the reef and then it's time to be off. First we drive south for a look at Nueiba. We buy (expensive) mineral water at the old snack-bar, our first iced drink for several days. (Alon tried evaporating water one night in a large bowl to cool it; but the camels got at it.) In contrast to Ras Burka, the beach at Nueiba is dirty and litter-strewn, but the guest house looks fine, with green lawns and well-kept flower beds. As far as we can see, the original Israeli drip irrigation system is still operating.

We talk to a sophisticated, grey-haired lady from Cairo, wearing shorts and sleeveless blouse. She is full of praise for Nueiba, which is "like the Garden of Eden." There are several Egyptians, Israelis and foreign tourists staying there, but it is far from full.

Crossing back is easier than crossing over — whether it's because A— is there to help us through or not, we don't know. It takes about an hour, with the same good-humoured jokes and banter.

SUNTANNED and refreshed, we feel it is still the same Sinai: the same blue sea and red mountains; the same corals and multi-coloured fish; the same peace, the same timelessness, the same friendly Beduin.

There is the added element of crossing a border into a strange land, even if it is not so strange. And then, of course, there is peace. Our contacts with those Egyptians that we met represented more than peace — more even than coexistence. We found warmth and friendship. In Sinai at least, there is nothing cold about the Israeli-Egyptian peace process.

Fire test for new sheikh

By LIORA MORIEL / Jerusalem Post Reporter

EARLIER THIS month, two new sheikhs were appointed in the Beduin town of Rahat, north of Beersheba. The two had been divided by a blood feud for over 15 years.

In 1966, Farhad Abu-el-Kifan's son was murdered. Tracks led to the el-Feinsh encampment. Although the Feinsh clan strenuously denied any connection with the killing, a blood feud was declared.

For 15 years, the two tribes tried to find a way out of it, but did not succeed. Last year, however, a solution was found, and now the two sheikhs and their tribes are at peace again.

Beduin law, being more symbolic and steeped in ritual than Western law, demanded that the Feinsh clan show its innocence in an indisputable, unequivocal way. Such a way was found: the fire-licking ceremony. This special ceremony is passed from father to son through

the generations, and now resides with the keeper of the fire in the Sinai, Sheikh el-Eidi. The ceremony is very old and may even date from the time of Moses, who also demonstrated his innocence through a fire-test.

In the ceremony, a frying pan is placed on top of red-hot coals. When the pan turns red, the man whose innocence is in question licks the pan. If the tongue remains whole and does not swell, this is a sign that the man is indeed innocent of any wrongdoing.

A year ago then, Farhad Abu-el-Kifan and Silman el-Feinsh, accompanied by a neutral third party, went to the keeper of the fire to settle their differences once and for all.

HERE THE tale is picked up by Nissim Kazaz, adviser on Arab affairs (southern region):

"Silman el-Feinsh licked the flame in the name of all his tribe.

The tongue remained healthy and did not swell — a sign that he is innocent and has nothing to do with the murder."

The real murderer has never been found, but the suspicion was removed once and for all from the Feinsh clan.

This month, then, the two men who shared the Sinai fire ceremony became sheikhs. Kazaz nominates sheikhs in his capacity as head of a committee made up of Interior Ministry officials, as well as representatives of the military and the police. He says that he looks for both leadership and loyalty to the state. "Our policy is to preserve as wide a contact as possible with the Beduin population, so as to promote Arab-Jewish fellowship. But if someone is inciting constantly against the state — even though he deserves to be made sheikh in terms of leadership — I will not appoint him," Kazaz said.

THE BRITISH Government has asked ORT for help in bringing technological studies into UK high schools. Yosef Harmatz, director of the World ORT Union, brought this good news with him when he returned to Israel from London (where the World ORT Union is headquartered) for the holidays.

"We have been asked to establish a pedagogical resource centre which will be the backup for their plan to introduce technological studies into 90 high schools," Harmatz explains.

ORT, though primarily a provider of technological education services in Israel and to Jewish students around the world, has also introduced new teaching methods in non-technological subjects taught at Jewish day schools in South America and elsewhere. ORT was originally asked to come into these schools to teach technological subjects, but Harmatz says ORT's involvement has changed the teaching of sciences, mathematics, geography, Jewish studies and other subjects.

"We took the traditional furniture out of the classrooms," he explains. "No longer do the children look at the teacher's back while he/she writes on the blackboard. They work in small groups around tables, and learn insofar as possible by doing."

In one classroom in Argentina, for example, a geography lesson consisted of mapping the track for a railroad from the north of the country to the south. The children were so enthralled with the project that they refused to go on to their next class.

Setting the pace in London

By LEA LEVAVI/Jerusalem Post Reporter

In another classroom Harmatz visited, children learned about the functioning of the heart by dissecting the heart of an animal. The story of Jacob's dream (in which Jacob wrestles with the angel) was acted out during a Bible lesson in another class.

"There is Jewish significance to all of this, in the sense that parents want to send their children to the Jewish day school, because they like the education their children receive there. If the Jewish day school were second or third rate, they would send the children elsewhere, and we would lose them."

ANOTHER "Jewish" milestone in ORT's history is the agreement recently reached with the town of Carmiel to open an international technological college there. The facility, to be named after Max Braude a former director of the World ORT Union, will accept Jewish students from all over the world for post-high school technological training.

ORT also hopes to bring some pupils there earlier in their educational careers so that they will attend the local comprehensive high

school (from tenth grade) and then go on to the college.

The college, which is expected to open in September 1985, will accommodate 300 students. Harmatz hopes most of the graduates will decide to settle in Israel, but even if they do not, the experience will leave them with close ties to Israel, he believes.

Just as ORT has extended beyond the Jewish world to help the British Government, ORT provides technical assistance to over 20 countries in Africa, Asia and South America in such varied areas as

medicine, road building and child care, not to mention technological education. "Governments have asked for our know-how and experience," Harmatz says, "and we are pleased to be able to provide it."

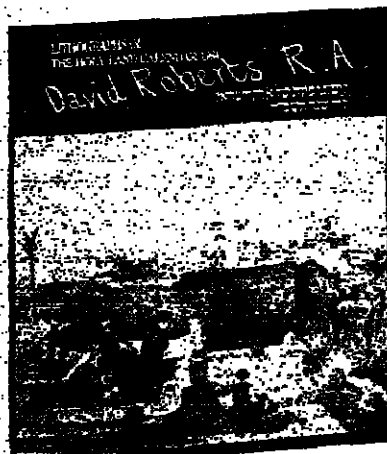
Meanwhile, back at its own schools here and abroad, ORT is extending the scope of its knowledge and experience to meet the challenge of a rapidly changing technological environment.

"We want to teach all our students basic literacy in computers and robotics, because they will have to work with computers and robots whether their specific occupation is mechanics or textiles," Harmatz says.

"We have also established laboratories in the area of artificial intelligence. In other words, how can we train our students to do the kind of creative computer programming which will enable us to expand the abilities of our own brains by getting the maximum data possible out of the computer?"

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Note: The complete work of David Roberts in the Holy Land, including the lithographs which appear in the calendar, is available in book form. All 123 lithographs are reproduced, together with colour photographs of each site as it appears today, accompanied by text from the original 1839 edition of Roberts' book. Bound volume: IS 6200. Jerusalem-only volume (25 lithographs): IS 2400. Fill out the coupon at right.

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Record profits for United Mizrahi Bank

By JOSEPH MORGENSTERN
Post Finance Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The United Mizrahi Bank Ltd. yesterday reported that it had registered a profit of IS1 billion in the first six months of 1983. This marked a nominal gain of 351 per cent. The net profit, adjusted for inflation, stood at IS324.5 million.

The balance sheet total of the United Mizrahi Bank group at the date of the report stood at IS236.9b., which shows a nominal annual growth of 162.7 per cent as compared with June 1982.

From the unaudited reports, the growth in the balance sheet total reflects a real growth of 10.4 per cent when taking into account the yearly rise of 137.9 per cent in the cost-of-living index. The balance sheet total, when viewed in dollar terms, amounted to \$5b. as compared with \$4.4b. on December 31, 1982 and as compared with \$3.7b. on June 30, 1982.

The net profit of IS1b. compared with IS222m. in the same period last year. The 351 per cent nominal growth in profits was translated into a real gain of 88 per cent when compared with June 30, 1982. The net profit stated in dollars came to \$2.1m. as compared with \$9m. a year earlier and marked a gain of 133 per cent in dollar terms.

The net profit per share fully diluted for the six months came to

57.9 per cent as compared with 15 per cent in the comparable period a year ago and resulted in a real gain of 62 per cent.

The capital means of the bank advanced by a nominal 279 per cent and a real annual growth of 59 per cent from IS1.7b. on June 30, 1982 to IS6.6b. on June 30, 1983. The growth in the capital means originates from profits as well as a rights and option issue which was carried out in May.

The total deposits of the group grew from IS46.9b. to IS118.9b. marking a nominal growth of 153.5 per cent and a real growth of 6.5 per cent. From the beginning of the calendar year until mid year the real growth in deposits was 5 per cent.

Credits with the group as of June 30, 1983 stood at IS115.0b. as compared with IS39.8b. a year ago, which reflected a nominal gain of 188 per cent and a real gain of 21.4 per cent.

In the course of 1983 the bank opened four new branches and plans to open eight additional ones by the end of this year. UMB is planning on the establishment of an international bank holding concern as well as an international investment company.

In June of this year the bank raised \$25m. on the Eurodollar market and this brought the sum total raised on the Eurodollar market to \$80m.

Robot ranks growing rapidly, says Lavie

By MACABEE DEAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — There are ten robots already "working" in Israel, "within five years Israel will have one thousand and the number will then accelerate at a rapid rate," said Professor Arie Lavie, at a press conference yesterday. Lavie is chief scientist at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and chairman of the Israeli branch of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) which is active in robotics and computer and automated systems.

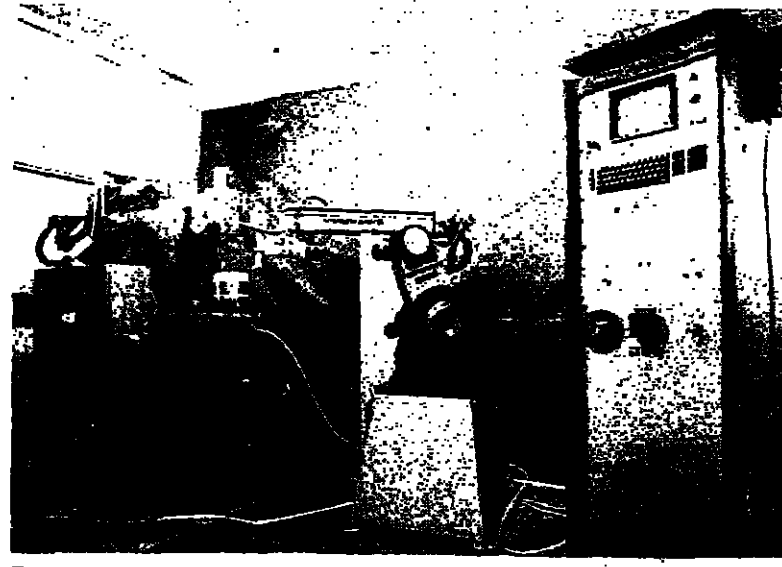
SME will hold its international congress in Israel in November, 1984, according to Razi Rom, director-general of the local branch. Additional particulars on the congress, and a pre-congress meeting, were given by Professor Gideon Halevi, of the Technion.

Lavie noted that the western industrialized world (which includes Japan) had moved with a "bang" into the field of computers about four years ago, and today some 31,000 robots "are at work." Japan led with 13,000, followed by the U.S. with 6,250. No figures were available on how many Russia had or planned, he said.

Lavie added that Israel, even though it had ten active robots (in the fields of plastics and metals), was trailing behind the rest of the world, and would have to take steps to catch up.

Israel already had one school for robotics, Midrashat Ruppim, and another four would be set up in the next three years, one each in the greater Tel Aviv, Haifa, Beersheba area, and one in Galilee, said Lavie.

"Robots will enable Israeli industries to step up output tremendously," he said, adding that the average Israeli produced goods valued at \$30,000, about half the



Sharon's Gil-1 industrial robot, which features an articulated arm that can be moved in almost every direction.

American and European level. "With the help of robots, Japan hopes to step up output per worker to \$500,000 a year."

Israel had to move in two distinct directions, Lavie said. The first was to introduce robots into the manufacturing process; the second was to develop its own robots for specific use in fields western giants did not think worthwhile entering.

At present, 13 different companies were developing robots in Israel, at about a cost of \$40 million, he said. Of these, five companies had already produced prototypes in the fields of diamond polishing, arc welding, plating materials, in general industrial use, and one prototype "artificial eye." It was hoped that the first commercial models would be on sale in 1984.

In addition, robots were being developed to handle cargo, to pick citrus, to sort fruits and for general

industrial use.

"By 1987, we hope to be exporting robots valued at \$200m. a year, and hope that exports will increase steadily afterwards," he said. The price of a robot would range from \$10,000 for a small, uncomplicated one to \$400,000 for a large, sophisticated one (for example the one which would pick citrus).

Prof. Halevi hoped that Israel could also take the lead in producing an "unmanned factory." Japan was trying to do this at present (more than \$100m. had been earmarked in the first stage and smaller sums afterwards) but had run into many difficulties.

"But such a factory is possible," Halevi said, adding "but at present it seems that it will grow from one department, manned entirely by robots. Additional departments will be added until the plant can do away with nearly all human labour."

Pakistan asks Iran to join Islamic market

LONDON (Reuters). — Pakistan's Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Ghulam Ishaq Khan has asked Iran to join his country in forming an Islamic Common Market, the Iranian national news agency Irna reported.

The Pakistani minister, who arrived in Iran last Tuesday, said his country was considering establishing an Islamic Common Market aimed at reducing the need to deal with east and west in commodities trade, the agency received in London, said.

It said Iran's Minister of Commerce, Hassan Abedi Jafari, told Ishaq Khan that Iran would assist the venture in every way possible and give priority to imports from Islamic countries.

Economic recovery must be spread—IMF

WASHINGTON (Reuters). — The most pressing task facing world policymakers is to ensure that the emerging economic recovery is sustained and broadened, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Sunday.

The IMF, in its annual report, said that although world inflation had declined, concern that it could be reignited was deep.

The report was critical of large budgetary deficits run up by the Reagan administration, arguing that a cutback was needed to help reduce interest rates and reinforce the current recovery.

"Measures aimed at avoiding a persistent deficit... would tend to reduce... interest rates and bring about a fundamental improvement in the conditions for sustained economic growth," it said.

The report said there were growing signs of an end to the global recession which had threatened default on huge debts by countries such as Mexico and Brazil. But the situation remained serious.

"The economic situation in mid-1983 is a difficult one for developed and developing countries alike," the report said. The fund had come under enormous pressure from the demands of countries faced with some of the worst economic problems since the great depression before World War II.

"The fund's financial activities rose substantially and the amounts involved surpassed previous high points by a very wide margin," the report said.

In the year which ended on April 30, the IMF had committed about \$26 billion to help countries with serious balance of payments problems due to inherent defects in their economies. This represented a jump of about \$9b. from the previous year.

The IMF also committed \$4.2b. to help countries hit by a reduction in exports and other problems, the report said.

IMF member-countries have tentatively approved a substantial increase in the fund's resources this winter, but this has yet to be approved by national legislatures, including the U.S. Congress.

DEPARTMENT STORE. — Some \$4 million is being invested by Hamashbir Lazareh in building a 3,000 square metre department store in Ra'anana. The store, which will employ about 100 persons, and will serve also nearby Kfar Sava, Herzliya, Hod Hasharon, etc.

Your money & your questions

By JOSEPH MORGENSTERN
Post Finance Reporter

QUESTION: My banker told me to look at the prospectus (tasheef). What did he mean by that?

ANSWER: A prospectus, or tasheef, is a document brought out jointly by the issuer and an underwriter of a public financing share or bond issue.

This document must be approved by the regulatory authorities. It must carry all information regarding the company, its past performance, its management and reasons for the issue.

This is done so that the public will have the maximum possibility of coming to an objective decision as to the investment suitability of the securities being offered.

QUESTION: What can you tell me about Fibronics?

ANSWER: Fibronics International Inc. is an American company; however, its research and development and manufacturing facilities are located in the science-based industries park in Haifa.

The company manufactures, sells and services Fiberoptics high concept data, transmission and distribution systems which connect mainframe computers to peripheral equipment such as terminals and printers. Bear, Stearns & Co. is preparing a first time ever 650,000 public share offering which is expected to be priced at \$10-12 per share.

QUESTION: At the beginning of 1983 I invested in the Galil index-linked bonds. Is this a good investment?

ANSWER: The Galil 3607 series, since the beginning of 1983 and as of August 21, showed a minimal gain of 80.3 per cent. It has therefore shown a real gain of 7 per cent, assuming a 70 per cent inflation for the first eight months of 1983. In dollar terms for the same

period of time it has yielded 3.1 per cent. While not a very high yield this index linked bond has performed better than most of the shares registered on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

QUESTION: Which has been the best performing mutual fund in 1983?

ANSWER: As of August 31, the Leumi-PIA Inbar Mutual Fund has recorded the highest nominal yield, which was in the order of 86 per cent or 4.5 per cent in dollar terms. This fund specializes in foreign currency. However, in August, Inbar, which yielded 13.9 per cent, was unable to keep up with the devaluation of the Israel shekel which was 15.6 per cent.

QUESTION: Why do Israel's high technology firms look to the American capital market for raising money?

ANSWER: The high-technology firms, for the greater part, have discovered that the American investor is more prepared to invest in high-technology enterprises, than his Israeli counterpart.

Furthermore, the American exchanges are more stable in terms of share price movements than our local Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Finally, it has been suggested by some of the managers of our high-tech companies that since their sales are primarily made to the U.S. it is good publicity to have their shares registered there for trading.

QUESTION: I understand that the trading for any single share on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and the setting of a price is a "one shot" affair and affects hundreds or even thousands of shareholders. Is there any outlook for changing this antiquated system?

ANSWER: The management of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange is currently giving serious consideration to modifying the system to a combination of "auction" and continuous trading.

Sugar price talks open in Geneva

GENEVA (AP). — The second round of talks on stabilizing sagging world sugar prices opened here yesterday to replace existing agreements which seem to have failed.

Jorge Zorreguieta, former Argentine minister of agriculture and chairman of the conference held by the UN Conference on Trade and Development said he hopes the 79 exporting and importing nations can reach a new accord by October.

The existing accord, which runs through 1984, is seen as having failed to keep sugar prices from plunging below the cost of production in many countries due to falling demand, and rising output.

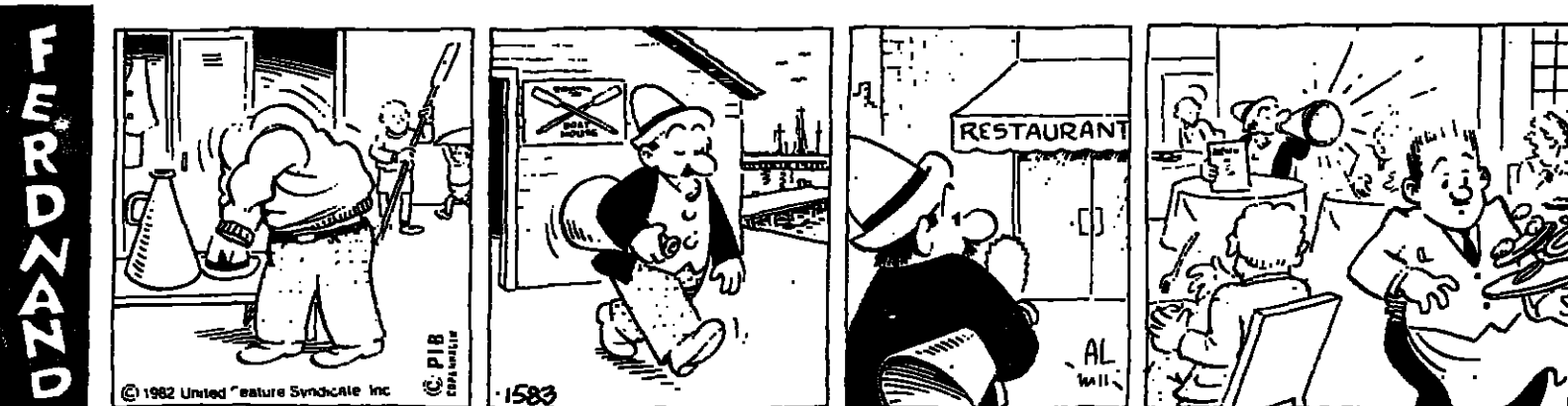
Sugar exports provide key foreign

exchange for many developing countries, such as heavily-indebted Brazil.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said last week near-record world sugar production of 99.7 million metric tons in the 1982-83 season is expected to exceed demand by about 6.7 million tons, keeping market prices low into 1984.

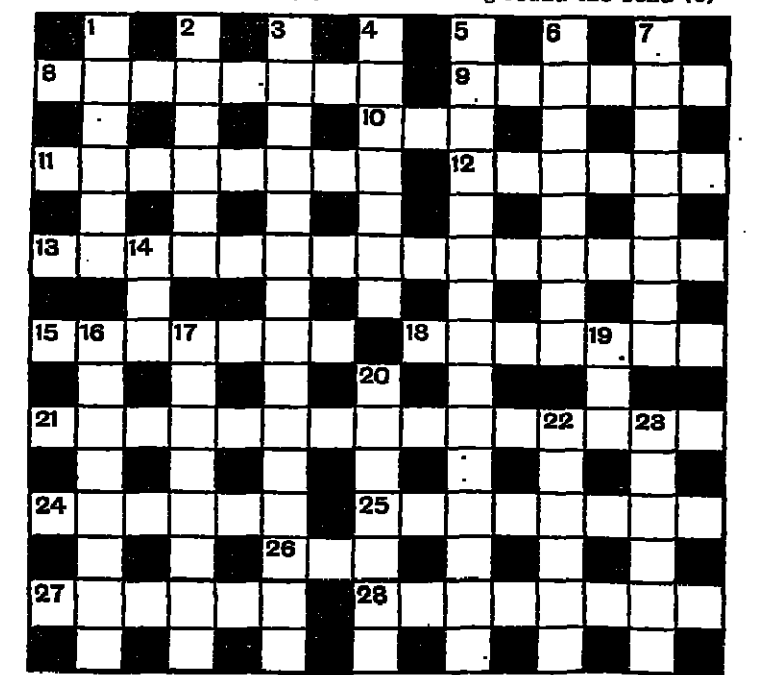
Brazil, the European Community (EC) and Australia have proposed price-stabilizing plans, but because of the wide difference, Zorreguieta produced a new plan setting a price range with trigger points and guidelines for price consultations among exporters and importers.

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| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 8 How the main race was resolved by the judge (2, 6) | 1 Conforming part of the body (6) |
| 9 Novel craft on the Trent (6) | 2 Author with an incomplete means of defence (8) |
| 10 Service initially going a long way back (3) | 3 Given a firm undertaking (5, 2, 2, 8) |
| 11 Hoagy Carmichael's astronomical number... (8) | 4 Price paid for a lift in horse-drawn vehicles (7) |
| 12 ...to give thought to, note (6) | 5 C37 (5, 3, 7) |
| 13 Violation of one driving above the legal limit (8, 7) | 6 New brooms nowadays in soccer (8) |
| 14 Jumper for an international rugby player (7) | 7 Deference afforded by publicity man to a brass-hat (8) |
| 15 Stupid way to wreck cars, cunning too (7) | 8 Cockney's underworld to some extent? (3) |
| 16 Lance in question may be of no value (15) | 9 Silver-headed Scot in un-believing spiritual form (8) |
| 17 Bard having a bone to pick with Jane in Wales (6) | 10 Celebrated in beastly fashion (8) |
| 18 Consider a couple of main points to face (8) | 11 Odd slipper (3) |
| 19 Look backward and forwards (3) | 12 Dickensian schoolmaster seashore (7) |
| 20 Several whose jobs are in deep water (6) | 13 Ties us in knots albeit part of our make-up (6) |
| 21 Could be secure or the action taken to make it so (8) | 14 When one may get a blast coming round the bend (8) |



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Only 6 meaningful gains on market

TEL AVIV. — A deepening gloom enveloped the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday as prices continued to fall.

The Volatility Index, which measures the ratio of securities which have volatile price movements, registered a dismal 30. For each security which gained more than five per cent there were 30 other securities whose prices fell by five per cent or more.

Sharply declining issues totalled 183, while only six recorded meaningful advances.

Trading turnovers quickened and nearly touched the \$675 million mark. The turnovers would have been even higher but the United Mizrahi Bank group of shares did not trade yesterday as the bank unveiled its semi-annual results. (See Page 6.)

Hardest hit among the various

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

By JOSEPH MORGENTHAU

groups of trading were industrials, whose index registered a fall of 5.13 per cent. Insurance and oil equities were down by more than three per cent.

While the outlook for an improvement over the short term is not very encouraging yet, once must take into consideration the fact that there is an ever greater number of attractively priced shares.

In due course these issues will become the object of investment both for the individual investor as well as for the mutual fund managers. As one money manager pointed out "it will be up to the dis-

cerning individual to make his move and return to the market in advance of a turnaround."

The more emotionally minded individuals will certainly partake in what has often been termed the "herd instinct" and they will more than likely "panic out" of the market just at or near the bottom. The individually minded are probably beginning to structure a portfolio which they will fill out at different price levels.

Followers of the fortunes of the United Mizrahi Bank had ample cause for satisfaction as they read the semi-annual financial report. LMB, which has been recording the fastest earnings growth of any of the Israeli banks came through with a \$21 m. sixth month profit.

After applying inflationary accounting, the bank made a profit of \$23.5 m.

Poor export figures 'beginning of trend'

By AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Government and trade circles have expressed fears that the disappointing export figures for August may be only the beginning of a sharp, long-term downturn in sales of Israeli goods abroad.

Meeting in his office yesterday with leaders of the Israel Manufacturers' Association, Industry and Trade Minister Gideon Patil said: "The erosion in the anticipated revenues from exports in recent months might well affect our programme of future export development."

Manufacturers' Association president Eli Hurvitz predicted that the decrease in exports — which fell by 15 per cent last month, compared with August 1982 — will continue.

Patil and Hurvitz agreed that a special committee be established by the ministry and the association, and that a working paper be prepared recommending measures to be taken in an effort to reverse the downward trend in exports.

On Sunday, Patil will participate in a special meeting of the association's presidium devoted to stemming the erosion in export profitability.

More important than that, at least to investors in bank stocks, the shares of United Mizrahi Bank have been among the best performers in the commercial bank equities. The bank has maintained a staunch policy of stabilization and the shares gravitate upwards by a daily margin of 0.5 per cent.

The Big Three continued to advance as they recorded gains of 0.4 per cent. The 0.1 shares of the Maritima Bank of Israel were down by 10 per cent, for the second consecutive session. Danot 1.0 was down by 7.6 per cent while FIBI eased by 3.2 per cent.

A massive net offer for sale of \$20 m. nominal value of the shares of the First International Bank was picked up at a loss of 1.3 per cent.

The shares of the North America Bank were not traded yesterday as the management announced the prices for the up-and-coming public financing and for the rights issue.

Losses of 10 per cent prevailed in the insurance group. Ararat 0.5, both Re-Insurance shares and Phoenix 0.1 were hit by losses of 10 per cent.

The service and trade group followed suit and losses of up to 10 per cent were to be seen littering this group of trading.

When it came to trading in land development, real estate and citrus plantation issues, there was little surprise, as many of these issues nosedived by margins of 10 per cent.

Industrials were truly hard hit. Elbit was established as "sellers only" and Elron was down by 8.3 per cent. Alliance fairly much escaped the carnage as it eased by only 2.4 per cent. Falls of 10 per cent were common and encompassed a broad group of the industrial issues.

Kedem Chemicals was 15 per cent lower, but the option was ahead by 21 per cent.

There was little to cheer about in the investment company group of shares. Vupa was "sellers only" while its option staggered to a 20.3 per cent loss. Others fell by as much as 10 per cent.

The index-linked bond market was stable, with few price changes. Trading was moderately active — just over \$382 m.

The shekel was devalued by 25 agorot in relation to the dollar. Dr. Avraham Sabami, president of Elscint, yesterday remonstrated with Treasury officials regarding the delay in passing what has been termed the "Elscint Law." The law is to give special tax alleviation to Israeli investors who invest in local research and development.

Company	Price	Change	% change	Company	Price	Change	% change	Company	Price	Change	% change	Company	Price	Change	% change				
Commercial Banks				Jordan Hotel	117	-8.4	-7.2	Ackerstein 1	324	121	-36	-10.0	Cyclone 5	241	213	-11.5	-15.1		
IDB 8	98000	-16	-0.01	Jordan Hotel	45	130	2.9	Ackerstein 5	315	53	-1.6	-0.5	Cyclone 10	74	101	-35	-10.9		
IDB 8 p	4386	864	+19.7	Yahalom	97	8.1	-5.3	Argaman p.r.	990	8	n.c.	-	Kedem Chem	192	60	-34	-15.0		
IDB 8 p	4400	10	+0.2	Yahalom	69	8.1	-5.3	Argaman r	877	21	n.c.	-	Kedem Chem	136	111	-24	-21.1		
IDB 8 p	25500	-2	-0.01	Nikus 1.0	408	8.1	-22.5	Argat	990	135	n.c.	-	King 1	320	10	-7	-2.2		
IDB 8 p	25500	-2	-0.01	Nikus 5.0	200	43	-21.0	Argat 1.0	852	17	-18	-2.1	King 10	231	55	-20	-8.3		
IDB 8 p	25500	-2	-0.01	Nikus 10.0	185	64	-23.1	Argat 5.0	161	8.1	-8	-5.0	King 15	140	-	-	-		
Consolidated	159	8.1	+5.1	Consolidated	159	8.1	-8.1	Argat 10.0	95	488	-3	+0.3	King 20	255	195	-1	-0.4		
Consolidated	159	8.1	+5.1	Consolidated	159	8.1	-3.2	Argat 15.0	259	25	-10	-3.7	King 25	147	140	-7	-4.8		
Consolidated	159	8.1	+5.1	Consolidated	159	8.1	-1.7	Argat 20.0	277	2	-31	-11.2	King 30	228	10	n.c.	-		
Consolidated	159	8.1	+5.1	Consolidated	159	8.1	-8.4	Argat 25.0	1535	-1	-	-	King 35	318	-	-	-		
Consolidated	159	8.1	+5.1	Consolidated	159	8.1	-22.8	Argat 30.0	1535	-1	+15	+7.9	King 40	103	21	-20	-16.3		
Consolidated	159	8.1	+5.1	Consolidated	159	8.1	-10.0	Argat 35.0	1535	-1	-106	-6	-6.1	King 45	764	16	-25	-3.6	
Consolidated	159	8.1	+5.1	Consolidated	159	8.1	-4.9	Argat 40.0	1535	-1	62	4	-0.6	King 50	430	23	-5	-1.2	
Consolidated	159	8.1	+5.1	Consolidated	159	8.1	-1.0	Argat 45.0	1535	-1	160	31	-18	-10.1	King 55	324	8	n.c.	-
Consolidated	159	8.1	+5.1	Consolidated	159	8.1	-7.2	Argat 50.0	1535	-1	62	317	-10.1	King 60	247	75	-23	-10.1	
Consolidated	159	8.1	+5.1	Consolidated	159	8.1	-2.6	Argat 55.0	1535	-1	65	23	n.c.	-	King 65	510	55	-50	-9.9
Consolidated	159	8.1	+5.1	Consolidated	159	8.1	-3.4	Argat 60.0	1535	-1	294	439	-5	-1.7	King 70	340	71	-20	-5.6
Consolidated	159	8.1	+5.1	Consolidated	159	8.1	-4.1	Argat 65.0	1535	-1	402	28	-2	-5	King 75	200	158	-14	-6.5
Consolidated	159	8.1	+5.1	Consolidated	159	8.1	-10.0	Argat 70.0	1535	-1	102	23	-5.3	King 80	169	30	-1	-0.6	
Consolidated	159	8.1	+5.1	Consolidated	159	8.1	-3.0	Argat 75.0	1535	-1	71	153	-5	-6.3	King 85	133	3	n.c.	-
Land, Building, Citrus				Oren	108	76	-10	-5.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	65	140	-7	-9.7	
Oren	108	76	-10	-5.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	51	5.0	-5	-8.9
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	442	62	-35	-7.7
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	392	56	-30	-7.6
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	300	157	-20	-6.7
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	146	-	-	-10.6
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	271	402	-19	-6.6
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	646	-	-	-
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	70	315	-25	-10.1
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	265	52	-30	-10.2
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	570	-	-	-32.7
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	204	50	-11	-5.4
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	159	120	-16	-9.4
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	65	140	-7	-9.7
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	51	5.0	-5	-8.9
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	442	62	-35	-7.7
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	392	56	-30	-7.6
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	300	157	-20	-6.7
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	146	-	-	-10.6
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	271	402	-19	-6.6
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	646	-	-	-
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	70	315	-25	-10.1
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	265	52	-30	-10.2
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	570	-	-	-32.7
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	204	50	-11	-5.4
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	159	120	-16	-9.4
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	65	140	-7	-9.7
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	51	5.0	-5	-8.9
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	442	62	-35	-7.7
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	392	56	-30	-7.6
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Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	146	-	-	-10.6
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	271	402	-19	-6.6
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	646	-	-	-
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	70	315	-25	-10.1
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	265	52	-30	-10.2
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	570	-	-	-32.7
Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	204	50	-11	-5.4
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Oren 1	340	10	+2.9	+3.3	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Dukeb n.r.	1140	24	-100	-8.8	Tagal	70	315	-25	-10.1
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Agonizing finale

LEBANON's central government is said to be completely opposed to the Saudi cease-fire proposal that would keep the Lebanese army out of the Shouf. But this show of opposition is merely a brave facade over what amounts to the utter collapse of any semblance of central power in Lebanon. The Shouf mountain area is already, almost in its entirety, back in Druse hands, and Druse troops are even set to cut off Beirut from the south.

Only the village of Deir al-Kamar, where thousands of Shouf Christians have found refuge in the last few days, has been spared by the conquering Druse, striking — after an appropriate Israeli caution — a humanitarian gesture just this once.

But the battle for Lebanon, which is still continuing, is not being fought between the Lebanese army (and the Phalange) and the Druse of Walid Jumblatt alone. For the Druse are abetted by the Shi'ite militia in the Beirut area, and are apparently receiving substantial Syrian, Iranian and PLO aid. The Syrians, duly warned by Israel, have for the most part refrained from stepping bodily into the vacuum left by the IDF in the Shouf last week. But they have used their Druse allies as proxies, and allowed over 1,000 PLO men under their control to help the Druse out.

The next logical step for the PLO would be to try and reestablish themselves in Beirut, from which they were chased out but a year ago.

Meanwhile the IDF is redeployed along the Awali River, and it is also authorized to keep the terrorists out of the area bounded by the Awali and the Damour rivers. For the time being this secures the peace of Galilee. But any further Israeli withdrawal to the international border would be ruled out.

Under the new Israeli policy, enunciated by Defence Minister Moshe Arens, such a pullback could be staged once it became clear that the Lebanese army would take effective control of the areas evacuated by the IDF. Now, after the experience of the Shouf, it is a virtual certainty that the Lebanese army could do no such thing, and it is a distinct possibility that control would instead be taken by the PLO on behalf of the Syrians.

After the experience of the Shouf, it is also moot how long the present central government, to which the Lebanese army ostensibly owes allegiance, will remain in office.

According to reports from Beirut, President Amin Gemayel would rather resign than bow to the Syrian "peace" diktat. The Syrian terms include, beside the scrapping of last May's agreement with Israel, a reconstitution of the Lebanese government to make it wholly subservient to Damascus. But even if Mr. Gemayel does not resign, he will now have little choice but to become, in the manner of his predecessor, Elias Sarkis, a Syrian stooge.

One way or another, the special relationship between Israel and Lebanon's Christian community, supposedly the dominant group in the land, has just about come to an end. Both parties to this relationship have by now thoroughly disillusioned one another.

Thus all the major preconceptions on which Israel's grand thrust into Lebanon were based have crumbled into dust. It is characteristic that Ariel Sharon — the man who (as Mr. Arens properly reminded him in the cabinet on Sunday) sent the Phalange into the Shouf, and who used to take the dimmest view of any international force snatching authority away from the IDF — is now reduced to demanding that multinational force units be stationed between Syrian and Israeli troops in Lebanon.

MARINES

(Continued from Page One)

Army was battling Druse and their leftist allies around the strategic Christian village of Souk el-Gharb, which controls the major route from the mountains to Beirut.

Army spokesman Capt. Youssef Atrissi said army units in the southern district of Tayouneh came under mortar and small arms fire yesterday afternoon from Amal gunmen in the Shiyah neighbourhood.

He said the army responded with "all kinds of weapons," including tanks and machine guns, and destroyed an unspecified number of Amal bunkers.

Since the Druse-Christian fighting flared on September 4, police have counted 570 Lebanese killed and 1,325 wounded. However, many villages remain cut off by the fighting and the casualties there may not have been accurately tallied.

The International Red Cross reported that a relief convoy of five trucks, four ambulances and three cars managed to reach the town of Deir al-Kamar in which an estimated 30,000 Christian refugees are encircled by the Druse.

Red Cross spokeswoman Laure Spiziali said the convoy was bringing food, soap, blankets and washing powder, but would evacuate only the seriously ill and wounded.

The Twelfth Annual Scholarship Fund Dinner of
Ramot Shapira World Youth Centre

and the

Judith Lieberman Institutewill be held this Sunday, September 18, 1983
(11 Tishrei 5744)

at 6.30 p.m. at the Jerusalem Hilton Hotel

Guests of Honour:

JACK and FELISE DAVIES, LONDON**MARTIN and ELIZABETH LEVINSON, Ottawa**For reservations please call: 02-668343 until 2.00 p.m.
02-662240 or 02-228514 after 4.00 p.m.

YITZHAK SHAMIR may succeed in forming a cabinet, but he won't be able to govern the country as it should be governed. Not because of any shortcoming in Shamir, the man, but because the country is ungovernable. It suffers from a disease called coalitionitis.

The prime minister is dependent for his majority in the Knesset on tiny factions. Each of them is indispensable, so each uses blackmail. Portly Avraham Shapira strides before the TV cameras like a kingmaker. "I want the coalition agreement" (which he dictated to the Likud) "applied, and in every detail," he announces. Nobody would think that his party had four Knesset members.

If only it was just his little troupe, but there are others: the National Religious Party (5 members), Tehiya (3), Tami (3), and two men with no party at all, one of whom has nevertheless managed to extract a cabinet portfolio for himself (Mordechai Ben-Porat) — a portfolio as nameless as the party he doesn't represent.

Sara Doron of the Liberals has acquired another portfolio without a name: she too is a no-job minister. Are her services necessary for the welfare of the nation? Not in the slightest. She got the post because her party is "entitled" to it.

Chaos reached its climax in the celebrated nine-hour cabinet meeting last month on economic policy, when decisions were made and then reversed, and when the new decisions replacing the old were reversed in their turn, so that the ministers themselves did not know what had been decided.

Most astonishing of all and quite unprecedented: the prime minister gave verbal support to a cabinet resolution (abolishing the maternity grant), and the director-general of

the National Insurance Institute promptly made it known that he would ignore that resolution.

This is coalitionitis gone mad. The reason for it was revealed in the following days. Begin couldn't handle the government any more. He said so himself, and resigned.

The cabinet is like a class of unruly teenagers in a permissive school. Only schoolmasters with overwhelming personal authority can maintain discipline. The ministers will behave nicely (up to a point, anyway) if their chief is someone they fear — Ben-Gurion, Golda, Begin in his prime.

But the days of the founding fathers are past, and now we have Shamir as head of Herut. Who is afraid of Yitzhak Shamir? He would be the right man in the right job if the Likud had 61 seats in the Knesset instead of 46. His task would then be to chair a meeting of colleagues all fired by the same purpose or (to put it another way) all subject to the same party discipline (assuming the Liberals did not make trouble).

But when the cabinet contains men like Aharon Uzan and Yuval Ne'eman and Mordechai Ben-Porat and Zevulun Hammer who do not give a fig for Likud party discipline, and when outside the door lurk Shapira and Haim Druckman and others who have ideas of their own, then substituting Shamir for Begin

Deadly disease

By DAVID KRIVINE

will only make a bad situation worse.

THERE IS a remedy. Labour and Likud should get together and form a national unity government — for one day only. During that day, they would enact a single law: electoral reform. Then they would resign and call for new elections.

The cabinet is like a class of unruly teenagers in a permissive school

Labour is subject to coalitionitis, just as the Likud is. There has never been a party with a parliamentary majority in all of Israel's history. The initiative for change has been taken in fact by a Labour Knesset member, Gad Ya'acobi (formerly of Rafi — Ben-Gurion's party — in whose programme electoral reform had a top priority).

The alternative to the present system of proportional representation is the constituency system prevailing in the English-speaking countries. Ya'acobi does not go so far. What he suggests is a compromise between the two.

Britain divides into single-member constituencies, with one

candidate from each party: the winner is the first past the post. If that method were applied to Israel, some of the small parties would vanish from the Knesset altogether; others would be reduced to a fraction of their present size.

But that is not the intention. Religious opinion has to be represented, because, fortunately or unfortunately, the Orthodox parties in Israel have a political ideology. This has to be given political expression. Coalitions are needed still. It is coalitionitis that must be prevented.

Ya'acobi's bill does that. He proposes that three-quarters of the Knesset members be elected on a constituency system, and one-quarter according to party lists, as at present.

His constituency system takes a modified form. The 90 seats would be divided not between 90 single-member constituencies on the British pattern, but between 18 five-member constituencies.

Residents in the West Jerusalem constituency, for example, would have to choose five candidates, all from the same party. Each party would draw up its list of five candidates. The voter would choose which list he wanted. He would be voting for a party, not for individual candidates.

The challenge to the small faction is to win at least one constituency. If it does that, it automatically gets five seats. The advantage of the reform is that it decentralizes the

electoral process. There will be "primaries" within each party, opening the way to new candidates. The second advantage is that a party would need a sizeable following to win a whole constituency.

In one respect Ya'acobi seems over-zealous in placing vested interests. Letting the party that wins the contest, even by a slender margin, bag all five seats is going too far. It might imperil the parliamentary stability that his bill seeks.

Better let the voter choose which candidates he favours out of all the lists. If he selects, let us say, three Labour, one NRP and one Shinui, that is his right. The interests of the small factions would be sufficiently guarded by the provision reserving a quarter of the seats (30 in number) for allocation according to the party-list system.

The end-purpose is to let one of the big parties achieve an overall majority. Small factions, no longer in a position of control and unable therefore to hold the state to ransom, would have to offer cooperation. Concessions would be negotiated, not extorted. Avraham Shapira would cease to be cock-of-the-walk. He might even have to link hands with fellow-believer Dr. Yosef Burg.

Shinui would merge with Labour, Tehiya with Herut. Parties without any real ideological basis like Tami, having nothing to give their constituents (for lack of coercive power), would gradually fade away.

The government would be able to govern at last, even under Shamir — always provided, as stated, that the electoral system is duly reformed. Otherwise, there isn't a hope.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

READERS' LETTERS

THE HOTEL INDUSTRY

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir — Michael Yudelman's article ("Israelis are the worst wreckers, say hoteliers" — August 31) did not reflect either the spirit or the contents of our meeting with the Minister of Tourism. We requested to meet with Minister Sharir to discuss the way the inspection of hotels is conducted by the ministry. Let there be no misunderstanding: we are dedicated to raising the level of hotelkeeping in Israel and this includes regular supervision of standards by the ministry. We are all for this. But we want the supervision to be systematic, objective and constructive and not, as lately, carried out one-sidedly through the media — unless the hotel is grossly negligent or did not carry out the necessary improvements within a reasonable time.

Since tourism is one of the most sensitive industries — sensitive to seasons, the political and security situation, the economic situation abroad — probably no other industry operates under the same constraints as the hotel industry. The wildly fluctuating occupancy rate which may move from 25 to 100 per cent within a short period, necessitates extremely difficult planning and utilization of skilled and semi-skilled staff that is always in short supply.

During our meeting with the Minister of Tourism, which your correspondent did not attend, we examined these and other problems

with a view to finding solutions. These included better recruiting and training of staff and even better cooperation between the ministry — which has been doing outstanding work to promote tourism — and our association.

About five or six minutes out of 90 were spent discussing the way some Israeli guests behave in hotels. This is a serious problem, but it was described by your correspondent in a way which was out of proportion to its presentation at the meeting. We are not afraid to call in the police as suggested, but believe it is rather a matter of educating the public that, as paying guests, they are supposed to behave as guests.

JANOS DAMON
Chairman, Hotel Managers Association of Israel

Michael Yudelman comments:
The Tourism Minister's communications adviser Zvi Rimmon confirmed to me that hoteliers had complained to the minister about Israeli behaviour in hotels and noted the minister's suggestion that legal measures should be considered against offenders. The amount of time devoted to this problem has no bearing on its public interest.

Hotel managers I spoke to later were very definite about wanting to avoid any unpleasantness, and especially publication of any unpleasantness, even if it meant ignoring theft and vandalism.

TRUE OPPRESSION

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir — I was appalled to learn of the extent of Lawrence S. Phillips' naïveté (Letters August 29). Those of us who are concerned with the basic rights, dignity and welfare of oppressed people everywhere and captive nations — Poland, East Germany, Latvia (occupied since 1940), Cuba (yes, Cuba) and others are saddened to learn of the leftist bias of some Jews who are comfortably living in the U.S.

The valiant peasants of Nicaragua

are fighting desperately to free their country from the yoke of the pro-Soviet Sandinist regime. Nicaragua is, alas, already in the Soviet camp. If Israel were, God forbid, an ally of Moscow, what would Mr. Phillips say? I'm dumbfounded by the masochism of some "enlightened" Diaspora Jews.

I lived in the Soviet Union from 1940 to 1972 and know very well what oppression means.

EFRAIM (FRANK) GORDON
Tel Aviv.

JEWISH STUDIES

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir — May I put on record two corrections which pertain to the instructive report by your correspondent C.C. Aaronsfeld, "Germany's Judaica" (September 2).

Mr. Aaronsfeld refers to "a high school for Jewish Studies" whose library contains some 5,000 volumes of Judaica. In fact, that institute is not a high school but rather a college with university accreditation by the German authorities. It is known as Hochschule für Jüdische Studien, was founded in 1979, and is aided in its development both by the Ruprecht-Karl University of Heidelberg and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The library of the Hochschule holds some 18,000 volumes in the field of Judaic studies, of which some 12,000 are already accessible to readers in its reading-room, while the rest are still being catalogued. Since Mr. Aaronsfeld drew his in-

formation from a book published in 1981 which reflects a situation that may have obtained in 1980, he may wish to bring that information up-to-date.

Professor SHEMARYAHU TALMON
Rector, Hochschule für Jüdische Studien, Heidelberg
Jerusalem.

ARTHUR LONDON

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir — Alexander Zvielli's article on the life of Shimon Orenstein (September 1) was interesting and informative. However, you mention that Arthur London was liquidated in the purges of 1952. I would like to point out that Mr. London is alive and living in Paris, where I met him recently.

LAURIN F. LEWIS
Jerusalem.

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